

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1-8. (Cancelled)

9. (New) A method for operating a camshaft adjusting device, using an actuating drive, the method comprising:
making an actual setting of a camshaft with respect to a rotation of a crankshaft to follow corresponding to a setpoint setting ascertained in a control unit;
if there is a system deviation between the actual setting and the setpoint setting, forming a fault signal in multiple stages as a function of the system deviation; and
imputing different weightings to individual stages of a fault indication.
10. (New) The method according to claim 9,
wherein information of a driver concerning an occurrence of a fault takes place as a function of a stage of the fault indication.
11. (New) The method according to claim 9,
wherein a stage of greater weighting is reached with increasing system deviation.
12. (New) The method according to claim 9, further comprising generating a fault indication perceptible by a driver at the latest when a stage having the greatest weighting is reached.
13. (New) The method according to claim 9, further comprising generating fault indications, perceptible by a driver, that are different from each other, as a function of a stage of the weighting, a fault indication, that prompts an immediate searching out of a repair shop, being generated at the latest when a stage having the greatest weighting is reached.

14. (New) The method according to claim 9,
wherein at least one stage exists in which a fault indication is generated that is stored in a fault memory in a way in which it can be read out, but is not perceptible to a driver during driving operation.
15. (New) A control unit for operating a camshaft adjusting device of a vehicle, the control unit including a computer to which a memory device is assigned, the memory device storing a program that is able to be executed by the computer, for carrying out the following method:
making an actual setting of a camshaft with respect to a rotation of a crankshaft to follow corresponding to a setpoint setting ascertained in the control unit;
if there is a system deviation between the actual setting and the setpoint setting, forming a fault signal in multiple stages as a function of the system deviation; and
imputing different weightings to individual stages of a fault indication.
16. (New) A memory device storing a program that is able to be executed by a processor for carrying out the following method for operating a camshaft adjusting device:
making an actual setting of a camshaft with respect to a rotation of a crankshaft to follow corresponding to a setpoint setting ascertained in a control unit;
if there is a system deviation between the actual setting and the setpoint setting, forming a fault signal in multiple stages as a function of the system deviation; and
imputing different weightings to individual stages of a fault indication.